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S E C R E T ANKARA 003482

SIPDIS

STATE FOR PM A/S BLOOMFIELD, EUR/SE AND EUR/RPM; OSD FOR
DASD HOEHN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/18/2014

TAGS: [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT TRAINING (WTDS) AT KONYA: TGS
CONSIDERS ISSUE "OPEN," WILLING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS

(U) Classified by Ambassador Eric S. Edelman. Reasons: 1.5
(B and D).

1. (S) During discussions with PM A/S Bloomfield's delegation on Global Force Posture review June 17 (septel), Turkish General Staff (TGS) DCHOD GEN Basbug said that TGS was prepared to continue discussions on USAFE's proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Weapons Deployment Training (WTDS) at Konya if the US was still interested. Basbug said there appeared to be some misunderstanding and confusion surrounding this issue. In the beginning, TGS found the issue to be complex and confusing. Now, it seems more clear. Based on his understanding of the issue, Basbug said USAFE's proposed MOU does not appear to be breaking "new ground." Rather, it appears to take into consideration new dimensions in training such as night flying, low-altitude flying, use of live fire, and chaff and flares. Basbug said that he considers these issues "military technical problems" that can be discussed. While he made clear he could not guarantee that all of USAFE's requests would be approved, TGS considers the issue "open" and is willing to discuss it further.

2. (S) Basbug said that if the US "insists on using Konya for training," it can be discussed. However, if the US is "looking to station aircraft there," that would have to be discussed elsewhere, since that is "outside of the DECA."

3. (S) Comment: Basbug's decision to re-open the issue of the use of Konya for WTDS is a positive one. Only last month, after months of back-and-forth discussions between TGS and USAFE on an MOU for the use of Konya, TGS rejected USAFE's proposal on the grounds that the Defense and Economic Agreement (DECA) of 1980 already provides for training opportunities at Incirlik Air Base and therefore there was no need to negotiate a separate MOU. TGS's decision came as a surprise to us, since USAFE decided in part to pursue WTDS using Konya range and operating out of both Incirlik and Konya ABs in response to requests from Turkish Air Force Commander GEN Firtina, who has encouraged USAFE and other US military officials to fly out of both Konya and Incirlik ABs. We understand that USAFE would generally prefer to operate out of IAB, to take advantage of the existing infrastructure, but would like to include Konya in the MOU/TA to both support GEN Firtina and have at least one other base approved for training operations should there be some reason that Incirlik was not available (avoid Incirlik as "single point of failure" for WTD planning).

4. (S) ODC Chief intends to follow up with TGS/J5 for Agreements Major General Acar (who is currently TDY and did not participate in the meeting) early next week to identify TGS process to discuss the "military technical problems" and gain approval for USAFE's MOU/TA requirements.
EDELMAN